

SECRET

10 January 1967

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: ~~TOP SECRET~~

SUBJECT : Soviet Satellite Communications and Tracking Stations
in Cuba

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS

1. As reported in the New York Times on 29 December, the USSR has announced that it will build a communications satellite ground station in Cuba. This is a clear indication that the USSR hopes to establish a world-wide network with its Molniya system.
2. Molniya satellites, though still in an experimental stage, have been used to relay television and communications with ⁱⁿthe USSR. They have also relayed television transmissions between the USSR and France, the only other country yet to experiment with the Molniya system. The Soviets are reported to be negotiating similar TV exchanges with Japan, and a Cairo news service claimed recently that a ¹Molniya ground station will be constructed in Egypt. These reports are consistent with a recent statement by the USSR Deputy Minister of Communications that the Soviet Union is ready to cooperate with foreign countries in the field of space communications.

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SATELLITE TRACKING STATIONS

3. Havana Radio announced on 12 October 1966 that the USSR and Cuba had just signed an agreement providing for the installation of two satellite tracking stations in Cuba. Although we have no information yet on the equipment or capabilities of the two proposed stations, it is likely that they will be similar to an optical station given to Cuba by the Soviets in 1964. Nikolai Erypelev, a signatory of the latest agreement, was in charge of setting up the earlier station and supervised the training of the Cuban operators. An optical station can determine a satellite's position ^{PRECISELY} ~~are usefully~~ but readout is too slow for real-time tracking and command or for useful monitoring of US satellite activity.

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Remarks: <p>Herewith an informal response to most of para. 2 of your 4 Jan request. It has been coordinated with DD ST T.</p> <p>My apology for the unfinished appearance of the reply. I understand you wanted it quickly.</p>			
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